

Claim 16. (Currently amended) An [elliptically] elliptically polarizing plate as set forth in claim 15 wherein the first optical layer has an average angle of tilt of between about 5° and about 70°.

Claim 17. (Currently amended) An [elliptically] elliptically polarizing plate as set forth in claim 16 wherein the first optical layer has an average angle of tilt of between about 7° and about 60°.

Claim 18. (Currently amended) An [elliptically] elliptically polarizing plate as set forth in claim 17 wherein the first optical layer has an average angle of tilt of between about 10° and about 50°.

Claim 22. (Previously amended) A liquid crystal display as set forth in claim 25 further comprising a compensation layer laminated directly or indirectly to a second side of the liquid crystal cell.

Claim 23. (Previously amended) A liquid crystal display as set forth in claim 22 further comprising a reflective layer.

Claim 24. (Previously added) An elliptically polarizing plate comprising a laminate of: a polarizer having a first planar side and an opposing planar side and comprising a polarizer film having a thickness of from about 5 to about 80 μm , and optionally including a protective layer having a thickness which is less than about 500 μm ;

a first anisotropic optical layer having a first planar side and an opposing second planar side, said layer being made from a first material that is a calamitic liquid crystal which has a thickness of from about 0.5 to about 500 μm and optionally includes a substrate having a thickness of from about 0 to about 500 μm , said first anisotropic optical layer having a positive refractive index anisotropy and an optical axis that is tilted relative to the plane of the polarizer and which has a retardation $R_e = (n_x - n_y) \times d$ within the plane of the layer of from about 10 to about 1000 nm and a retardation $R_{th} = (n_x - n_z) \times d$ in the direction of the thickness of from about -400 to about 900 nm wherein the refractive indexes in two directions within the plane is set to n_x and n_y , the refractive index in the thickness direction is set to n_z , and the thickness is d ;

a second anisotropic optical layer having a first planar side and an opposing second side and said layer being made from a second material that is a discotic liquid crystal which has a thickness of from about 0.5 to about 500 μm and optionally includes a substrate having a thickness of from about 0 to about 500 μm , and said second anisotropic optical layer having a negative refractive index anisotropy and an optical axis that is tilted relative to the plane of the polarizer and which has a retardation $R_e = (n_x - n_y) \times d$ within the plane of the layer of from about 1 to about 500 nm and a retardation $R_{th} = (n_x - n_z) \times d$ in the direction of the thickness of from about 0 to about 700 nm; and

one of the planar sides of the polarizer being laminated directly or by means of an intermediate adhesive layer to the first planar side of the first anisotropic optical layer and the second planar side of the second anisotropic layer being laminated directly or by means of an intermediate adhesive layer to the first planar side of the second anisotropic layer, and

the second layer being oriented so that the optical plane of the second layer is substantially orthogonal to the optical plane of the first optical layer.

Claim 25. (Previously added) A liquid crystal display comprising a liquid crystal cell having a first side laminated directly or indirectly to an elliptically polarizing plate comprising a polarizer film having a thickness of from about 5 to about 80 μm , and optionally including a protective layer having a thickness which is less than about 500 μm ;

a first anisotropic optical layer having a first planar side and an opposing second planar side, said layer being made from a first material that is a calamitic liquid crystal which has a thickness of from about 0.5 to about 500 μm and optionally includes a substrate having a thickness of from about 0 to about 500 μm , said first anisotropic optical layer having a positive refractive index anisotropy and an optical axis that is tilted relative to the plane of the polarizer and which has a retardation $\text{Re}=(\text{nx}-\text{ny}) \times d$ within the plane of the layer of from about 10 to about 1000 nm and a retardation $\text{Rth}=(\text{nx}-\text{nz}) \times d$ in the direction of the thickness of from about -400 to about 900 nm wherein the refractive indexes in two directions within the plane is set to nx and ny , the refractive index in the thickness direction is set to nz , and the thickness is d ;

a second anisotropic optical layer having a first planar side and an opposing second side and said layer being made from a second material that is a discotic liquid crystal which has a thickness of from about 0.5 to about 500 μm and optionally includes a substrate having a thickness of from about 0 to about 500 μm , and said second anisotropic optical layer having a negative refractive index anisotropy and an optical axis that is tilted relative to the plane of the polarizer and which has a retardation $\text{Re}=(\text{nx}-\text{ny}) \times d$ within the plane of the layer of from about 1 to about 500 nm and a retardation $\text{Rth}=(\text{nx}-\text{nz}) \times d$ in the direction of the thickness of from about 0 to about 700 nm; and

one of the planar sides of the polarizer being laminated directly or by means of an intermediate adhesive layer to the first planar side of the first anisotropic optical layer and the second planar side of the second anisotropic layer being laminated directly or by means of an intermediate adhesive layer to the first planar side of the second anisotropic layer, and the second layer being oriented so that the optical plane of the second layer is substantially orthogonal to the optical plane of the first optical layer.